

***** T O P S E C R E T *****S COPY

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O 112355Z JAN 74
FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK 015

TO LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR SEC KISSINGER ABOARD 86970

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE VIA AIRCRAFT EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

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TOHAK 015

TO RALPH SIGLER FOR LARRY EAGLEBURGER; DELIVER IN SEALED
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JANUARY 11, 1974

TO: HENRY A. KISSINGER
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FOLLOWING IS THE ZIEGLER STATEMENT ON THE JCS "SPY" STORY.
IT WAS RELEASED AT 5:00 P.M. IN ORDER THAT THE EVENING NEWS
SHOWS WOULD AT LEAST HAVE SOME COMMENT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION.
THE STATEMENT WAS DRAFTED BETWEEN AL HAIG AND FRED BUZHARDT. IT
WAS A REAL SHELL-GAME OPERATION TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS GOING
TO BE IN IT. MY CHIEF CONCERN WITH THE STATEMENT IS THAT IT
STIMULATES CURIOSITY AND THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REST ON IT FOR
LONG. I CERTAINLY HOPE THAT WE WILL NOT FIND OURSELVES IN THE
POSITION OF RETRACTING OR REINTERPRETING IT AS THE STORY DEVELOPS.
THE RUMOR IS THAT THE POST VERSION WILL COME OUT TOMORROW AND THAT
IT WILL INCLUDE A STATEMENT THAT WELLENDER'S PHONE WAS TAPPED AND
HE WAS HEARD PASSING CONVERSATIONS OF SENSITIVE MEETINGS TO THE
PENTAGON. WILL KEEP YOU POSTED.

QUOTE:

TODAY'S NEWS ACCOUNTS RELATING TO THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
AND NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL TOUCH ON A MATTER PERIPHERAL TO A
NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUE WHICH WAS FOUND TO INVOLVE DELIBERATE
LEAKS TO THE MEDIA OF EXTREMELY SENSITIVE INFORMATION OF INTEREST
TO OTHER NATIONS. THIS INCIDENT HAS BEEN REFERRED TO ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS IN RECENT MONTHS AND THE ADMINISTRATION STILL CONSIDERS
IT INAPPROPRIATE FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.

IT MAY BE THAT AT A LATER TIME THE FACTS CAN BE MADE PUBLIC

***** W H S R COMMENT *****

SCOWCROFT ONLY

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST. FOR THE PRESENT, HOWEVER, THE MOST THAT PROPERLY CAN BE STATED IS THAT TODAY'S NEWS ACCOUNTS CONVEY AN INCORRECT IMPRESSION OF THE KNOWLEDGE AND ACTIONS OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF; THAT THE MATTER WAS INVESTIGATED AT THE TIME; THAT THE SOURCE OF THESE LEAKS WAS A LOW-LEVEL EMPLOYEE WHOSE CLERICAL TASKS GAVE HIM ACCESS TO HIGHLY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND THAT TODAY'S NEWS STORIES ARE BASED ON FRAGMENTARY ACCOUNTS OF THE INCIDENT.

AT THE PRESIDENT'S DIRECTION, THE INFORMATION REGARDING THIS CASE HAS BEEN PROVIDED ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS TO THE CHAIRMEN OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE, THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR AND THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE. END QUOTE.

THE NETWORK NEWS SHOWS TONIGHT GAVE ONLY BRIEF, STRAIGHT-FORWARD ACCOUNTS OF THE TRIBUNE STORY AND THE WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT. THE ONLY ELABORATION WAS TO NOTE THAT THE LOW-LEVEL EMPLOYEE WAS A NAVY YEOMAN WORKING ON THE NSC STAFF WHO LEAKED DOCUMENTS TO JACK ANDERSON.

WARM REGARDS.

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